

**AUGUST 2010 REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION
PROPOSED NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REENTRY FACILITY AND
DEWITT NELSON YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CONVERSION
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

RECIRCULATION OF EIR SCOPING NOTICE

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has revised and is distributing for a third time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Northern California Reentry Facility (NCRF) on Arch Road in San Joaquin County south of Stockton. The NOP has been revised to acknowledge that CDCR will now consider not only the NCRF project but also the proposed conversion of the adjacent DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility (DeWitt Nelson) to a mental and medical health facility for adult male inmates in a single EIR. The NCRF/DeWitt Nelson EIR will address both proposals equally at a project level of environmental analysis.

The DeWitt Nelson facility is located in the southeastern corner of Northern California Youth Correctional Center (NCYCC). NCYCC consists of a complex of four CDCR Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) correctional facilities including N. A. Chaderjian, O. H. Close, Karl Holton, and DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facilities. The proposed NCRF is situated immediately northeast of the Karl Holton facility. The Karl Holton and DeWitt Nelson facilities are now considered permanently closed and no longer needed to meet the needs of the DJJ. These facilities are excess to the DJJ's needs because of the substantial reduction in the number of wards being committed to the state's juvenile justice system. However, the N. A. Chaderjian and O. H. Close facilities are to remain operational and the DJJ believes these juvenile correctional facilities will continue to be needed for the foreseeable future.

SEPTEMBER 2009 NOP AND REVISED DECEMBER 2009 NOP

Two NOPs for the proposed NCRF project have been previously circulated for public and responsible agency review by CDCR; this includes the original NOP in September 2009 (hereinafter the September 2009 NOP) and subsequent revised NOP in December 2009 (hereinafter the December 2009 NOP). The proposed NCRF project involves the renovation and reuse of the former women's correctional facility. The project would consist of a 500-bed secure reentry facility for adult male inmates that are scheduled for parole to San Joaquin County, Amador County, and Calaveras County.

After release of the September 2009 NOP on September 18, 2009, two subsequent developments occurred that resulted in a change to the anticipated scope of the original NCRF EIR. These changes were addressed in the December 2009 NOP; this document was recirculated for community and agency consideration on December 2, 2009.

One of the changed conditions that required the recirculation of the NOP was the formal approval of the 1,734-bed California Health Care Facility (CHCF) for adult male inmates at the site of the former Karl Holton facility by the California Prison Health Care Receiver (CPR) in

mid-October 2009. Another changed condition was CDCR's decision to consider the potential reuse of the former DeWitt Nelson facility as a 1,133-bed correctional facility that would serve mental health and medical health care needs for adult male inmates. The revised December 2009 NOP indicated that, while only conceptual, the proposed DeWitt Nelson conversion would be addressed in the NCRF EIR as a potential future project that could contribute to cumulative environmental effects.

Since distribution of the December 2009 NOP, CDCR has advanced the planning process for conversion of the former DJJ facility and is formally proposing the DeWitt Nelson conversion project. The budget and scope of this proposal have been authorized by the State Public Works Board under the provisions of the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2007 (Chapter 7, Statutes of 2007 [AB 900]). Therefore, CDCR is re-circulating a second revised NOP (to be known as the "August 2010 Revised NOP") for the NCRF EIR to expand the scope of the EIR to include analysis of the DeWitt Nelson Conversion as an additional and separate project analyzed at an equal-level of detail as the proposed NCRF project.

Under the revised EIR scope, no additional environmental review would be necessary after certification of the EIR for either the NCRF project or the DeWitt Nelson conversion project (or both) as long as the projects remain within the EIR's scope, environmental analysis, findings, and adopted mitigation measures for each project. Further, each project is evaluated separately in the EIR, as well as combined, so that CDCR can consider whether to approve one or both of the projects through separate approval processes. The approval of one project (i.e., NCRF or DeWitt Nelson) does not result in the approval of the other project. CDCR will consider each project independently based on the analysis contained in the EIR and comments received from public agencies and the public.

The description of the proposed NCRF project has not changed since the release of the September 2009 NOP. For the sake of completeness a copy of the September 2009 NOP (Attachment A) and the December 2009 NOP are attached to this NOP (see Attachment B). Distribution of the August 2010 Revised NOP for the proposed NCRF and DeWitt Nelson Conversion projects is intended to provide the community, responsible agencies, and representatives of local agencies an additional opportunity to comment on the scope of the environmental issues that will be addressed in this combined EIR.

STATUS OF CHCF PROJECT

Since release of the December 2009 revised NCRF NOP the proposed CHCF, Stockton, has become a fully authorized project by the State Public Works Board under the provisions of AB 900. On August 2, 2010 the City of Stockton, County of San Joaquin, Stockton Chamber of Commerce, CDCR, and California Prison Healthcare Receivership Corporation (CPR) signed an agreement settling litigation brought jointly by the City, County, and Chamber against the EIR for the CHCF project. There is no further pending litigation against the CHCF; CDCR and CPR are in the process of implementing the conditions of the settlement agreement. Initial construction activities are expected to begin on the CHCF in fall 2010. Certain elements of the "CHCF Settlement Agreement" will affect aspects of the NCRF and DeWitt Nelson projects including, but not limited to, the planned extension of water service that would benefit all three projects, local traffic improvements to Arch and Austin Roads, potential annexation of the NCYCC/NCWF properties to the City of Stockton, and the implementation of the CHCF Local

Hire Outreach Plan and Citizens Advisory Committee provisions. The settlement provisions are included within the baseline for analysis for the two projects.

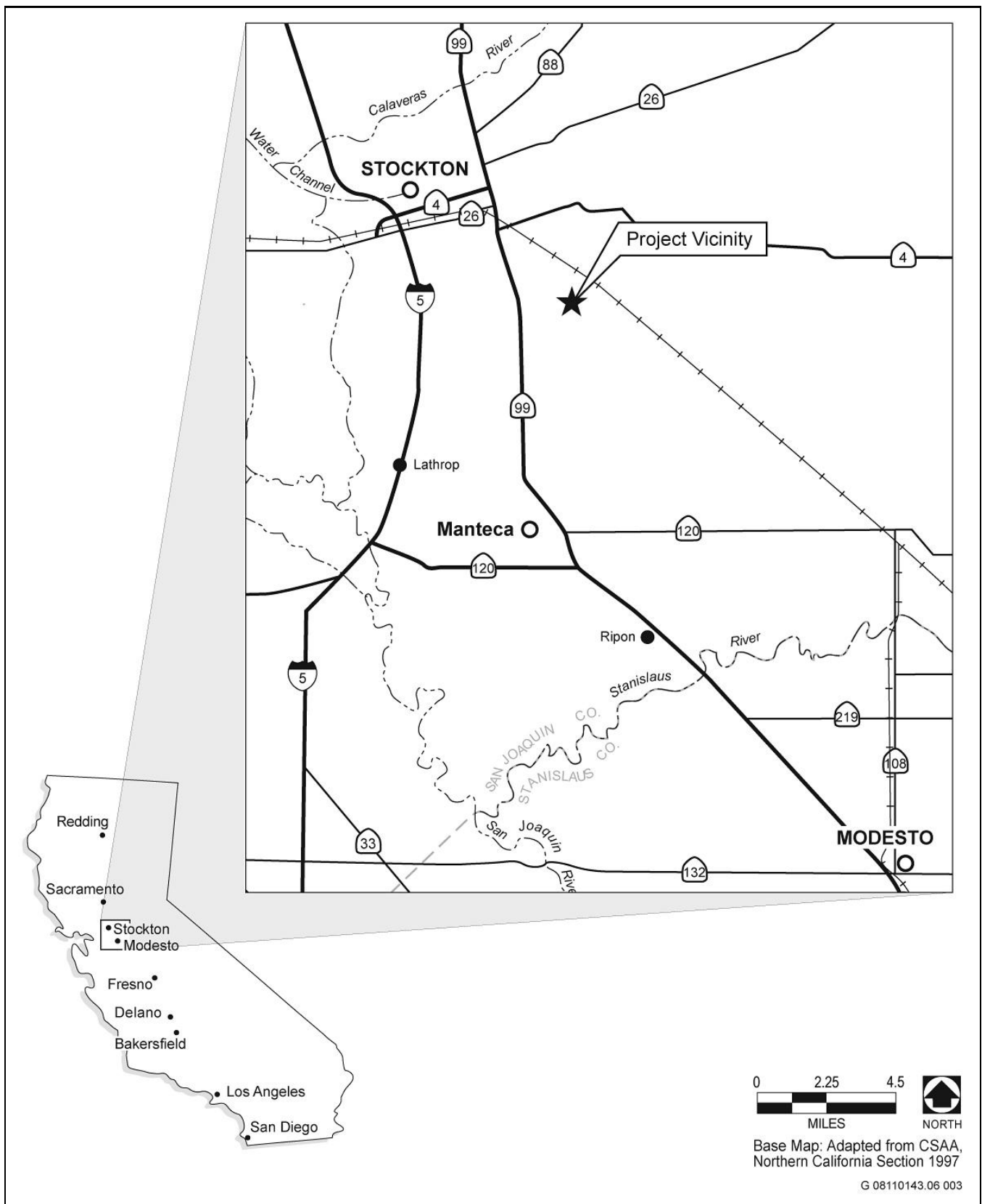
General Information

Project Title: Northern California Reentry Facility and DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility Conversion

Lead Agency: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Office of Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management
Environmental Planning Section
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827
Contact: Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner
(916) 255-3010

Project Location: There are two projects and related sites that will be addressed in the EIR: one for the proposed NCRF project and the other for the proposed DeWitt Nelson Conversion project. The NCRF project site consists of 134 acres and the DeWitt Nelson project site consists of 70 acres. Both sites are state-owned properties in unincorporated San Joaquin County, immediately southeast of the Stockton city limits (see Exhibit 1). The sites are less than two miles east of State Route 99 (SR 99), which provides regional access to the sites. Arch Road provides direct access to the NCRF site, and the DeWitt Nelson site is currently accessed via Newcastle Road. The NCRF site was formerly used as a correctional officer training academy and, prior to that, a women's detention facility, the Northern California Women's Facility. The DeWitt Nelson site was formerly used as a DJJ youth correctional facility; it is part of the Northern California Youth Correctional Center.

CEQA Requirement: This Notice of Preparation is intended to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, (CEQA), (Public Resources Code, Division 13, Sections 21000–21177), and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000–15387).



Source: EDAW 2008

Regional Location

Exhibit 1

Potential Permits and Approvals Required:

- ▶ CDCR: Overall project approval. The NCRF and DeWitt Nelson projects will be considered for approval separately following certification of the EIR
- ▶ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District: Authority to construct and permit to operate (applies to both projects)
- ▶ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: General construction permit (applies to both projects)
- ▶ City of Stockton: Potential annexation of both sites as well as other portions of the NCYCC property
- ▶ San Joaquin County: Potential annexation of the sites into the City would require County approval of detachment.
- ▶ San Joaquin County Local Agency Formation Commission (SJLAFCO): Boundary changes to authorize water service from the City of Stockton. Potential consideration of a request to annex sites and other portions of NCYCC to City of Stockton. The CHCF settlement agreement provides for CDCR to enter into a deferred annexation agreement which provides that the City may apply to SJ LAFCO for annexation. CDCR may also petition the Commission for the modification of the existing boundaries of fire districts that serve the combined project area.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

NCRF

California Penal Code Section 6275 (SB 943 of 2007) authorized the conversion of the former woman's facility to a secure community reentry facility. The proposed NCRF would serve inmates from San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Amador Counties. The reentry facility would house adult male inmates during the last 6–12 months of their respective sentences prior to parole. The goal is to provide inmates a variety of special educational, vocational, and personal development programs to better prepare them for return to the community of their last legal residence.

DEWITT NELSON CONVERSION

In August 2009, a three-judge district court composed of Judges Reinhardt, Karlton, and Henderson issued an opinion for the *Coleman v. Schwarzenegger* case that imposes a population cap on California's prisons. The court found that the cap is necessary to cure constitutional violations that have long existed with respect to the provision of medical and mental health care. The court found that the overcrowding in the prisons led to "criminogenic" conditions, which resulted in more crimes being committed by former prisoners and an increase in the recidivism rate. It also determined that, with adequate safeguards and improved rehabilitation and reentry programs, the state could ensure that the order would result in an increase in public safety. (U.S. District Court Order January 12, 2010).

The proposed DeWitt Nelson project is included in the CDCR Division of Correctional Health Care Services (DCHCS) plans (May 26, 2009 and November 6, 2009) to meet the long-range mental health bed needs ordered by the Federal *Coleman* Court on behalf of the plaintiffs. On January 4, 2010, the United States District Court in *Coleman* included this project in CDCR's plans, pursuant to the provisions of the governing June 18, 2009 order.

The proposed DeWitt Nelson project has been authorized by the State Public Works Board (PWB) for design and environmental review in accordance with AB 900. AB 900 authorizes the design and construction of infill projects to increase prison capacity and reentry facilities along with other corrections programs. The PWB authorization does not authorize or otherwise approve the project for construction. The project would need to complete all appropriate environmental reviews prior to CDCR considering the project for approval.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

NCRF

In February 2008, an Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the conversion of the former Northern California Women's Facility (NCWF) to an adult male reentry facility was released for public review. CDCR approved the project in April 2008. At the time the IS/MND was prepared and the project approved, the site was used as a correctional officer training academy.

The California Correctional and Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) subsequently challenged the adequacy of the IS/MND. On March 12, 2009, the Superior Court of San Joaquin County found that the environmental analysis was not adequate and ordered CDCR to set aside its approval of the MND and the project. In May 2009, CDCR rescinded and set aside all resolutions, decisions, and orders approving the MND (State Clearinghouse Number 2008021233) for the proposed NCRF. CDCR determined following the court's decision that it was necessary to prepare an EIR for the project.

The facility remains closed with the exception of occasional use for officer training. The current condition of the project site and surrounding area (at the time this August 2010 Revised NOP is released) will comprise the baseline used for the EIR's environmental analysis. The description of the proposed NCRF project has not changed since the release of the September 2009 NOP (see Attachment A).

DEWITT NELSON CONVERSION

As mentioned above, one of the primary reasons the NOP for the NCRF project was recirculated in December 2009 was to inform the public and responsible agencies that CDCR had determined that it would potentially reuse the former DeWitt Nelson facility for a proposed 1,133-bed correctional facility that would serve mental health and medical health care needs for adult male inmates. Because the project was in the very early planning stages, CDCR planned to analyze the proposed DeWitt Nelson project as a related project in the cumulative analysis section of the NCRF EIR.

Since distribution of the December 2009 NOP, the State Public Works Board has authorized the DeWitt Nelson project under the provisions of AB 900. The PWB authorization does not authorize or otherwise approve the project for construction. The project would need to complete all appropriate environmental reviews prior to CDCR considering the project for approval. Therefore, CDCR is distributing the August 2010 Revised NOP to acknowledge the preparation of a combined EIR for the proposed DeWitt Nelson Conversion project and the proposed NCRF project.

PROJECT LOCATION

NCRF

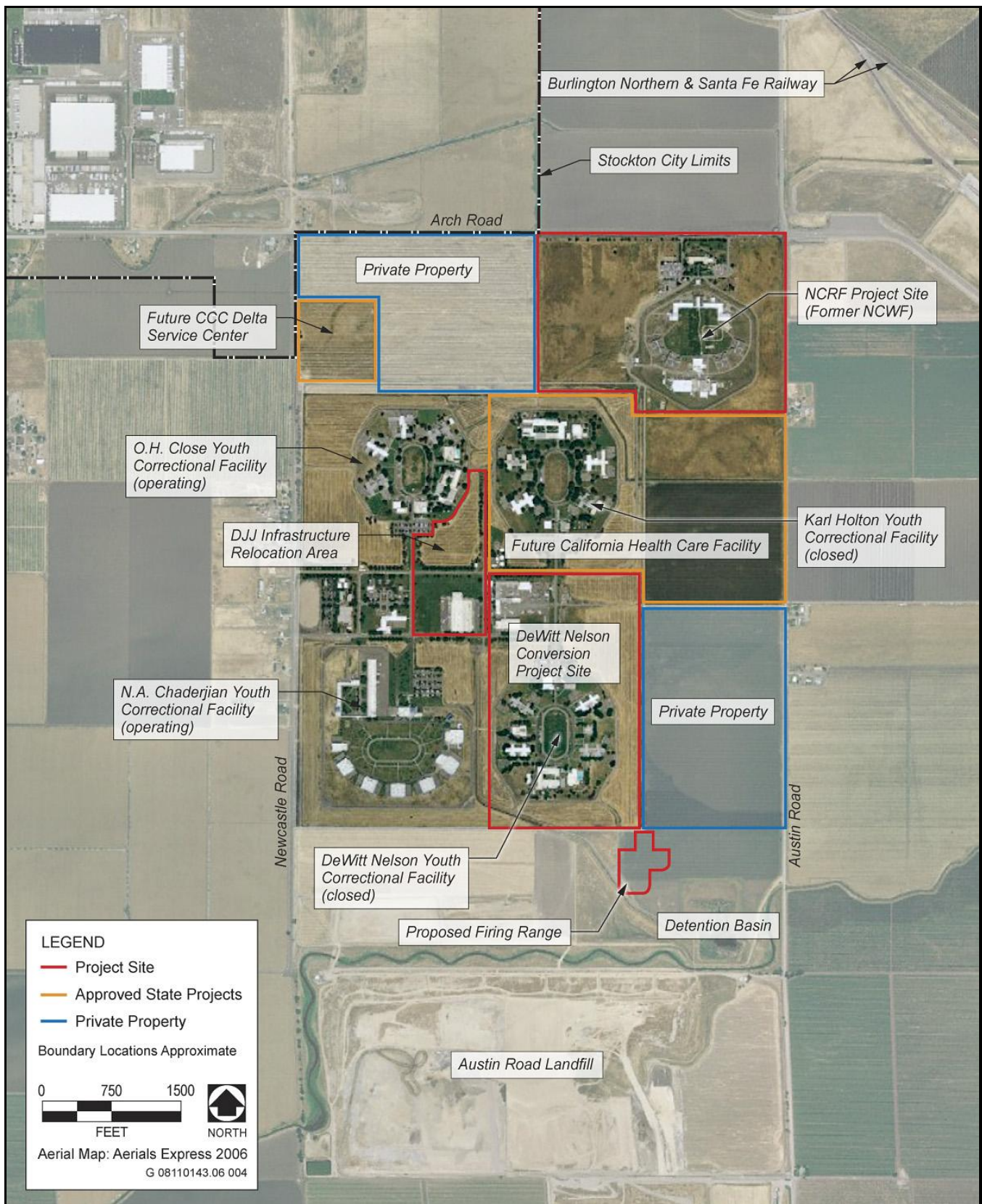
The NCRF project site is located on 134-acres of state-owned property adjacent to the northeast corner of the NCYCC. The site is less than two miles east of SR 99 in unincorporated central San Joaquin County, immediately southeast of the Stockton city limits (see Exhibit 2). It is approximately 6 miles northeast of the cities of Lathrop and Manteca, 21 miles northwest of Modesto, 17 miles northeast of Tracy, and 15 miles south of Lodi. Arch Road provides direct access to the project site and SR 99 provides regional access. The site is immediately north of the 1,734-bed CHCF project (approved October 2009), which is also located on the grounds of the NCYCC.

The reentry facility project site was originally the Northern California Women's Facility, a secure adult female inmate prison that closed in 2003. Subsequently, the facility was used as a correctional officer training academy called the Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Center Annex (CTCA), which closed in 2008. With the exception of occasional field training exercises, the site is currently vacant but maintained. The project site includes a hexagonal two-row exterior perimeter fence (12 feet tall topped with razor ribbon). The vacant buildings surrounding the former recreation yard include four former housing units, a former food service building and reception building, and a former control/support/program building. The area south of the former recreation yard includes the former kitchen delivery/service area, plant operations, storage, maintenance, and an abandoned Prison Industry Authority facility that previously operated a laundry, warehouse, and program space. There are no guard towers on the project site.

DEWITT NELSON CONVERSION

The DeWitt Nelson project site is located on 70 acres directly south of the CHCF project site and is currently accessed from Newcastle Road. The former DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility originally opened in 1971 as part of the NCYCC, which was operated by CDCR's DJJ. In 1996, at its peak of operation, DeWitt Nelson population was 638 wards, but the ward population declined to an average population of 350 wards by January 2008. The DeWitt Nelson facility was deactivated in July 2008 and has remained unused. The proposed DeWitt Nelson project would potentially renovate or replace the existing housing units and provide for the construction of additional buildings and infrastructure to accommodate a 1,133-bed medical and mental health facility for adult male inmates.

The CHCF project site is directly north of the DeWitt Nelson project site. The two site plans have a directly contiguous boundary between them.



Source: EDAW 2008

Site Vicinity Aerial Map

Exhibit 2

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

NCRF

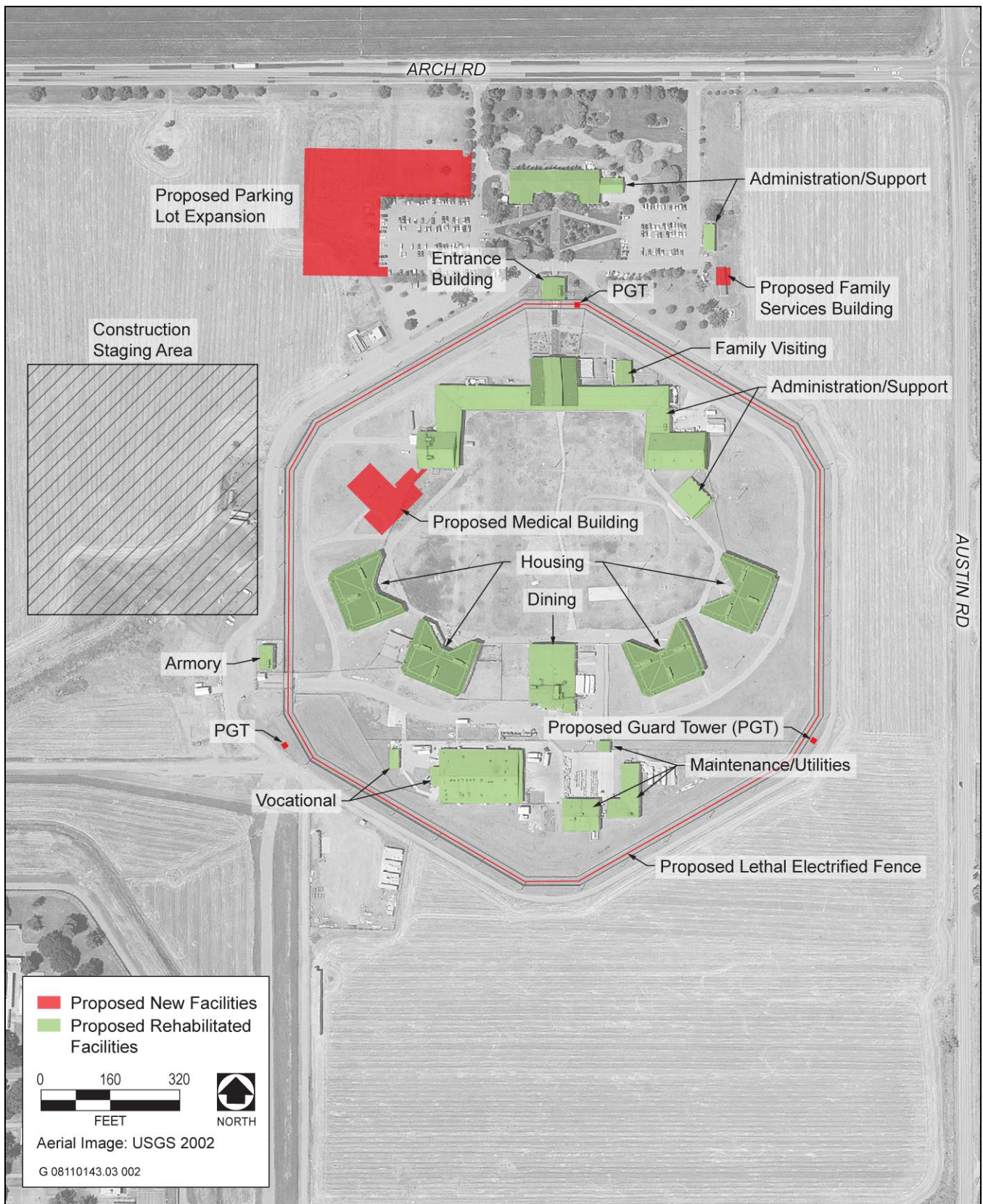
The proposed conversion would involve construction of a new medical building, as well as renovation of buildings for facility program support services, dining and receiving, family visiting, academic and vocational education, miscellaneous support, and a gymnasium (see Exhibit 3). Existing structures contain 400 cells. Total planned inmate capacity for the reentry facility is 500 beds. To provide the additional capacity CDCR proposes to provide 100 double-bunked units; the balance of the housing facilities would remain single-bed units.

Chapter 9.8 of Assembly Bill 900 (Section 6271[a]) sets a limit on reentry facilities of “up to 500 beds each;” therefore, the population of the reentry facility cannot exceed the 500-bed legislative cap.

At the northwest part of the prison site, a new 16,500 square foot medical building would be constructed at a similar scale to the existing buildings. The project would be designed to comply with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System (LEED) standards, LEED Silver, for the proposed medical facility.

Perimeter security for the proposed NCRF would be enhanced to include a lethal electrified fence and three armed perimeter guard towers. Other improvements would include the construction, repair, or replacement of the boundary line fencing, roads, parking, outer perimeter landscaping, inmate recreation yard improvements, site grading, site lighting, storm drainage improvements, and extension of utilities to each building. CDCR would also improve the prison’s electrical supply, distribution, water and wastewater service, and refuse disposal systems. No new high-mast lighting would be added to the project site.

Water service to NCYCC and the former NCWF was historically provided from four on-site wells operated by the DJJ. However, due to shallow groundwater contamination detected in three of the wells associated with the adjacent municipal landfill, water service is being extended from the City of Stockton’s water system to the DJJ facilities. Service lines are expected to be in place to provide water connections into the DJJ water distribution system by the end of 2010. The new service will be installed in Newcastle Road; a service line will extend into the DJJ property to provide a direct connection to the facility’s water distribution storage tank. Connection with city-supplied water will require isolation of the facilities’ existing three contaminated wells; they will no longer provide service to the DJJ and NCWF and will be properly closed and abandoned unless the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board directs that the contaminated wells must remain operable for monitoring purposes. As a result of the CHCF settlement agreement CDCR will extend new water service through the installation of a new 16-inch water service line in Arch and Austin Roads to the point of connection to this new facility. This additional water service and water meter will provide the point of connection for all new water service to not only the CHCF but also the proposed NCRF and DeWitt Nelson facilities. CDCR has the right to also install a third connection point at approximately Logistics Drive to assure adequate water supply to service all facilities on this property.



Source: EDAW 2009

Proposed NCRF Site Plan

Exhibit 3

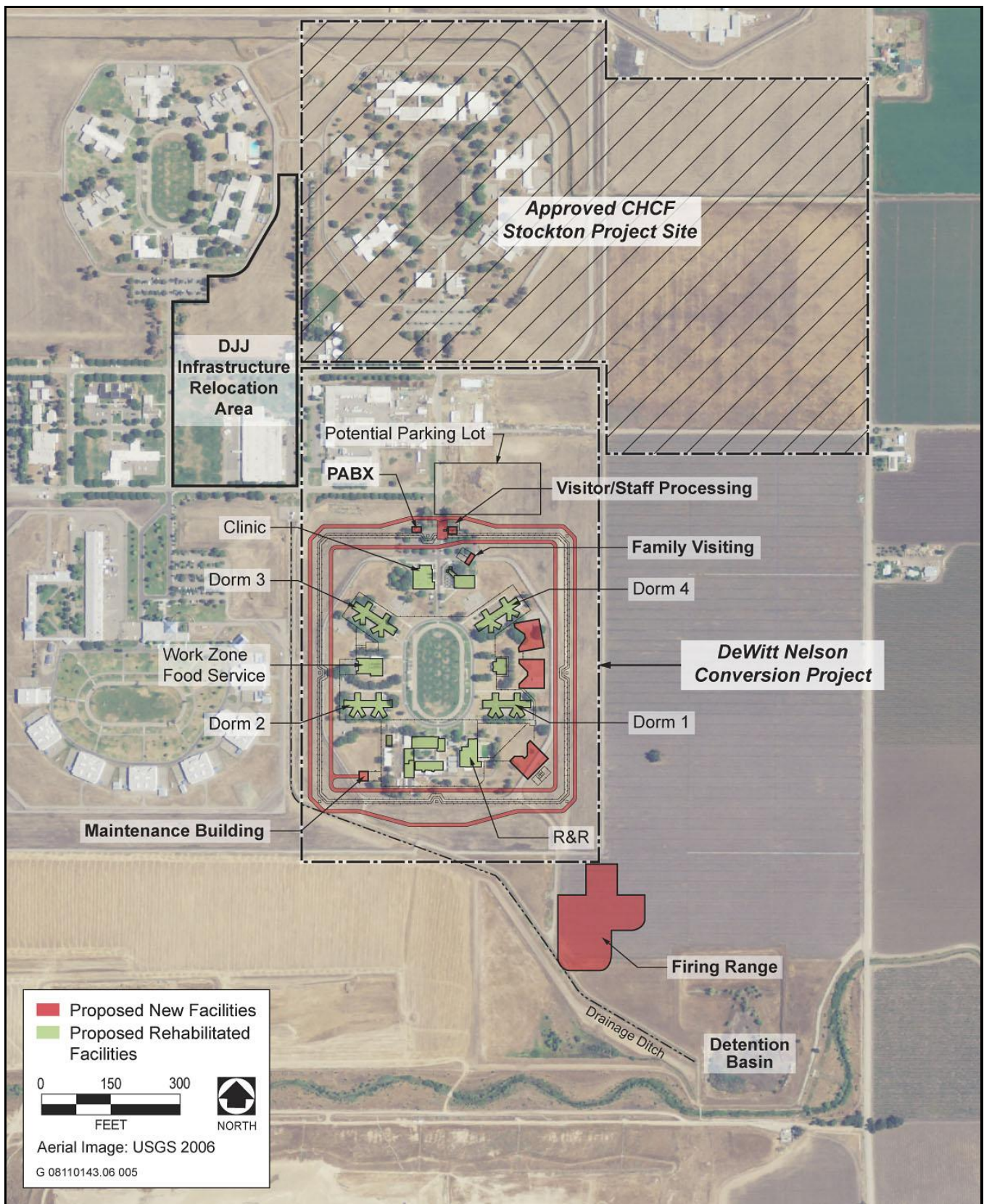
Sewer service at NCYCC and the former NCWF is provided by an existing gravity collection line that transports wastewater to City of Stockton treatment facilities. CDCR believes there is adequate capacity within the current agreement (800,000 gallons per day) to meet the needs of all facilities within the state property. The CHCF settlement agreement acknowledges the continuation of this agreement past its current expiration date (2018). The agreement clarifies that if the combined discharge rate of the existing and proposed facilities exceeds the existing historic wastewater agreement, then CDCR would purchase additional capacity and, if necessary, upgrade the capacity of the export line. Solid waste generated at the NCRF and DeWitt Nelson facility would be transported to the adjacent Austin Road landfill.

The proposed facility would operate 24 hours a day, year-round, with three 8-hour shifts (watches). An estimated 350–400 staff would be employed at the proposed facility and would include correctional officers, administrative, and other types of support staff. Visiting hours would be by appointment only from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., seven days a week, and the average number of weekday visitors is estimated to be approximately 30 with weekend visitors estimated to be 100.

Construction of the reentry facility is anticipated to begin in summer 2011; there will be an approximately 24 month construction schedule and a tentative activation date of winter 2013. Construction work shifts would generally be between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, for the reentry facility. A construction staging area for NCRF would be located on a roughly 6-acre field west of the existing perimeter fence line and parking lot. Additional construction staging areas would be provided within the CHCF project site and in open areas within the DeWitt Nelson facility. All construction staging would occur within state property at NCYCC and NCWF. Parking for construction workers would be provided in the existing NCWF staff and visitor parking lots as well as on temporary parking lots to be developed for the CHCF and DeWitt Nelson projects. All parking for construction workers would be within the NCYCC state-owned property.

DEWITT NELSON CONVERSION

The proposed DeWitt Nelson project includes the conversion and reuse of the existing DeWitt Nelson facility to a semi-autonomous adult male medical and mental health facility. Depending on the final construction plans all or a portion of the existing buildings may be renovated, modified, or removed and replaced. The adjoining CHCF project is expected to provide primary administration and support for the proposed DeWitt Nelson facility. The proposed project would include housing, programming, healthcare facilities, inmate visiting and some support facilities. The project would contain three new housing units and the potential renovation of four existing dormitory housing units for the proposed inmate population (see Exhibit 4). The new housing units and four existing dormitories would house up to a maximum of 1,133 inmates. In addition, a proposed firing range would be located south of the DeWitt Nelson boundary near the existing detention basin just north of the landfill. Additional stormwater storage facilities may be developed near the existing detention basin. Access to the DeWitt Nelson site would be at the entrance on Austin Road to be developed for the CHCF project. Employee and visitor parking for the DeWitt Nelson facility would either be at the northeast corner of the project site or be provided in a shared parking lot to be developed on the east side of the adjacent CHCF project.



Source: EDAW 2008

Proposed DeWitt Nelson Site Plan

Exhibit 4

Pursuant to Executive Order S-20-04, CDCR is designing and will construct the new buildings to meet minimum LEED Silver design standards. Renovation work of existing buildings would include window/door hardware repairs, electrical repairs, mechanical repairs, and upgrades for the lighting and fire alarm system. Existing buildings would be brought up to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design, CDCR Design Criteria Guidelines (DCG), and the California State Building Code requirements. Existing buildings would also be analyzed for potential LEED Silver certification.

Site infrastructure upgrades would include distribution systems for water supply and storage, wastewater systems, natural gas distribution system, telecommunication systems, and primary and secondary electrical distribution systems. Site security improvements would include a lethal electrified perimeter fence in between a double security fence topped with barbed tape, appropriate lighting, and perimeter guard towers, including one tower at the vehicle/pedestrian sallyport. A chain link fence with slats would be provided to physically and visually separate the adult correctional facilities from the remaining DJJ facilities at the NCYCC complex. Armed supervision and gun access would be provided consistent with CDCR policy. Other improvements include the construction of roads, parking, inmate recreation yards, and site grading.

This facility would employ approximately 450 employees, including correctional officers, medical and mental health professionals, and other support staff working around the clock in three 8-hour shifts. The project would operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Construction of this proposed facility is anticipated to begin in spring 2011 with an initial activation date of December 2013. Construction work shifts and worker parking arrangements would be the same as described above for the NCRF project, except that construction activities on the proposed DeWitt Nelson facility may extend into evening hours and potentially include weekends.

Both the NCRF project and DeWitt Nelson project would include environmental protection measures related to water quality protection and earthquake resistant design. Water-quality-related protection measures require preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, as well as additional measures to reduce impacts related to stormwater quality. The protection measures related to earthquake resistant design require preparation of a geotechnical design study and incorporation of its recommendations. The EIR will describe these environmental protection measures in greater detail.

DJJ INFRASTRUCTURE RELOCATION/COMBINED PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE

DJJ Infrastructure Relocation

Conversion of the DeWitt Nelson facility as an adult prison will require the relocation and replacement of some existing DJJ shared infrastructure, support buildings, and a portion of the corporation yard situated at the northern end of the site plan (See Exhibit 4). These infrastructure elements would be reconstructed in an area situated between the O. H. Close and Chaderjian facilities immediately west of where they are generally now situated. This includes water tanks, fuel storage, a fueling station for vehicles, a boiler house, a plant operations building, vehicle maintenance, and driveways. The boiler house, which produces steam for food preparation areas at the DJJ, would be reduced in size because it would now

only serve the two remaining juvenile facilities. All replacement buildings and structures would be within the interior of the remaining DJJ campus; they would generally not be noticeable from Newcastle Road.

Option for Combined CHCF/DeWitt Nelson Perimeter Security Fence

The current site plan for the conversion of the existing DeWitt Nelson facility provides for the installation of a new double security fence perimeter with a lethal electric fence element around the entire facility. This perimeter would replace the existing DJJ perimeter that can only be used for juvenile wards. The new perimeter would meet all CDCR adult correctional safety standards including the installation of armed observation towers (about 750 feet apart) and an outer patrol road. The CHCF would have an identical perimeter fence, towers, and outer patrol road. Pedestrian sallyports would be placed on the north side or northeast corner of the DeWitt Nelson facility and on the south side or southeast corner of the CHCF to facilitate the direct movement of staff and inmates between the two facilities for treatment and care each day.

However, there is a potential that the proposed perimeter security system of the DeWitt Nelson facility may be combined into a single continuous perimeter fence that encompasses not only DeWitt but also the CHCF. This combined perimeter would substantially reduce the movement of inmates and staff through the two pedestrian sallyports, it would reduce the total amount of perimeter fencing, and it would provide for a more unified perimeter security operation. This concept has been successfully deployed at other facilities wherein CDCR has two complementary prisons in close physical proximity. Only minimal changes would be required to the CHCF perimeter fence plan; joining the two perimeter security systems can be accomplished by extending the segments of the east and west fence lines of the respective facilities so the combined site plans are encircled by a single perimeter. The existing plans for parallel cross fences at the end of each facility would be eliminated; a single pedestrian sallyport would be replaced the original plans for two individual sallyports.

Option for Integration of DeWitt Nelson and CHCF Site Plans

Another potential option that CDCR may consider in the EIR is to allow the integration of the site plans for the CHCF and DeWitt Nelson facilities into a single facility. Under this concept, the scope of the CHCF and DeWitt Nelson projects would not change. That is, each project would continue to provide the same number of beds, employees, and services as previously approved for the CHCF (1,734 beds) and the current proposal for the DeWitt Nelson facility (1,133 beds). This option would allow for potential improvements in the delivery of medical and mental health care services to the inmates by having a more cohesive arrangement of the building complex. For instance, some facilities included within CHCF could be physically located on the DeWitt Nelson site in order to reduce environmental impacts, provide services more efficiently, and/or reduce construction or operational costs. Alternatively, and for similar reasons, facilities planned as part of the DeWitt Nelson Conversion project could be located on the CHCF site. This site plan alternative, as well as others that may be considered in the EIR, represent preliminary design concepts for the proposed DeWitt Nelson facility. They have been included in this NOP because CDCR intends to evaluate the feasibility of various configurations at the facility and are not intending to determine the ultimate configuration and/or design of the subject project. Such decision is subject to the CDCR Secretary's independent discretion and approval but only after certification of the combined NCRF/DeWitt

Nelson EIR. The Secretary would make such decisions in collaboration with CPR; such decision could also result in the adoption of a feasible alternative based on findings of the EIR.

Potential Environmental Effects

The EIR will evaluate potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with construction and implementation of the proposed NCRF project and the proposed DeWitt Nelson Conversion project. Mitigation measures will be recommended where appropriate to reduce significant impacts. Due to the addition of the DeWitt Nelson Conversion project, the scope of the EIR has expanded from the scope described in the previously released NOPs (e.g., the September 2009 and December 2009 NOPs). With the exception of two of the environmental issue areas identified in the “Environmental Checklist” (Appendix G *State CEQA Guidelines*), mineral resources and recreation, the EIR will be “full-scope,” which means all the other environmental issue areas identified in the “Environmental Checklist” will be evaluated in the EIR’s environmental impact analysis. Because this EIR will be “full-scope” an Initial Study was not prepared. CDCR has determined that the following issues will be analyzed in detail in the EIR:

Aesthetics

Although both sites are currently developed and the majority of new on-site structures would be single-story, both the NCRF project and the DeWitt Nelson Conversion project include guard towers, which could obstruct views of any visual resources identified in the area. In addition, project site lighting could cause lighting and glare impacts. The EIR will provide an assessment of both projects’ impacts to visual resources, as well as lighting and glare impacts. While generally not visible from adjacent local roadways, such as Austin Road, views of the DeWitt Nelson facility would be affected by the potential removal of existing landscape trees.

Air Quality

The EIR will describe regional and local air quality in the vicinity of the project site and evaluate impacts to air quality associated with project construction and operation. The estimated air emissions of both projects will be compared to emissions thresholds of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The EIR will also include a discussion of greenhouse gas emissions and both projects’ contribution to potential cumulative impacts on global climate.

Agricultural Resources

The site was classified Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance prior to conversion to prison land uses. The proposed NCRF Project and the proposed DeWitt Nelson Conversion project would both be located primarily within the boundaries of the existing facilities, which would not result in impacts to existing farmland. However, the firing range would be located on state-owned land that is currently undeveloped. The EIR will examine the potential impacts associated with conversion of small undeveloped areas situated in or near the DeWitt Facility that have potential farmland resource value.

Biological Resources

Although the majority of both existing correctional complexes would be re-used for new and rehabilitated facilities, the project would involve some grading and site preparation for new buildings, removal of trees, improvements to infrastructure, etc. Grading could potentially conflict with existing foraging habitat of local raptor species. There is a potential that all or a significant number of the existing trees within the DeWitt Nelson compound would need to be removed to address security concerns with adult male inmates; a limited number of trees facing Arch Road just west of NCRF may also be subject to removal due to street widening. Tree removal could result in the removal of active raptor nests or the potential for future use of the trees as nesting sites. Operation of the proposed lethal electrified fences could also result in the individual take of some species. The potential for both projects to adversely affect special-status species and their habitat will be analyzed in the EIR.

Cultural and Historical Resources

None of the buildings on either project site are over 50 years old and, therefore, none would be considered historic resources. Although both projects would primarily be constructed on previously disturbed areas, some land that has not been disturbed could be affected on both the NCRF project and DeWitt sites. These areas could contain known and/or unknown cultural resources. Both projects' potential to affect cultural resources will be analyzed in the EIR.

Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources

Construction of the NCRF project and the DeWitt Nelson Conversion project could result in impacts related to geotechnical hazards, including seismicity of the area, potential for liquefaction and subsidence, erodibility of the sites' soils, soil stability characteristics, and shrink/swell potential of site soils, as applicable. Furthermore, it is currently unknown whether the soils of these project sites have the potential to contain paleontological resources. If such resources exist on either or both sites, soil disturbing construction activities could result in potentially significant impacts. The EIR for the proposed project will evaluate potential impacts related to geology, soils, and paleontological resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The former DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility includes a former auto body shop and a paint spray booth (with a current permit from San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, permit number N-581-3-0, expiration date August 31, 2014). Potential soil or other contamination associated with these facilities will be examined in the EIR. Rehabilitation of the former NCWF facility and the former youth correctional facility could involve exposure of workers to asbestos containing materials (ACMs), lead based paint (LBP), as well as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from fluorescent lighting fixtures. Furthermore, operation of the proposed health care facility on the former DeWitt Nelson site would involve disposal of medical waste, and operation of the firing range for peace officers that would result in the handling of hazardous materials and equipment including live and spent ammunition and firearms. The EIR will evaluate the potential for both projects to result in impacts associated with hazards and hazardous materials.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The EIR will describe both projects' effects on the hydrology and water quality characteristics of the project area including alteration of drainage patterns, erosion, storm water discharges, and flooding. The EIR may address provisions for additional stormwater storage facilities at the southeast corner of the NCYCC property. Further, the EIR will discuss potential water quality impacts associated with operation of the proposed firing range.

Land Use and Planning

The EIR will describe both projects' potential effects on existing land uses. CDCR will consider relevant federal or state land use policies. However, as a State agency, CDCR is exempt from plans, policies, and regulations adopted by non-state or federal agencies. Nevertheless, the EIR will provide a discussion of relevant local plans and policies because conflicts could potentially result in environmental impacts.

Noise

The EIR will describe the construction and operational noise levels for both projects (including noise generated by the proposed firing range) and will compare these levels to applicable noise thresholds to determine whether the projects would result in a significant noise impact. The EIR will also consider noise generated by existing surrounding land uses, such as the Stockton Metropolitan Airport, and will evaluate the potential effects on the proposed facilities, staff, and inmates.

Employment, Population, and Housing

The EIR will evaluate both s effect on population and housing in the local area based on projections of project employment and distribution of the employees by place of residence.

Public Services

The EIR will evaluate both projects' potential to create an adverse impact to schools, and will also evaluate effects on local police and fire services.

Transportation/Traffic

The EIR will evaluate both projects' potential impacts on regional and local transportation facilities based on a transportation analysis that will assess both construction-related impacts (heavy truck trips and construction worker trips), as well as operational impacts (employee trips, patient transport, access, and parking). A traffic study will be prepared for both projects in consultation with the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County, Caltrans, and SJCOG. The basis of this traffic analysis will include the projected traffic volumes of existing and known future projects in the surrounding region.

Utilities and Service Systems

The EIR will analyze the current capacity of the drainage, water, wastewater, natural gas, and electrical systems, including energy demands of the projects, and the potential for both projects to exceed capacity of these systems. An analysis of local water supply conditions will be provided. The EIR will describe the existing dry utilities (gas, electric, phone, etc.) and water, wastewater, and drainage facilities within the project vicinity, and provide an impact analysis of on-site and off-site utility line construction. The EIR will also describe the existing solid waste facilities that serve the site.

Water Supply and Distribution

The EIR will evaluate the water demand of both projects. The EIR will also assess the City of Stockton's near- and long-term availability of water to supply to both projects. This section will evaluate whether water infrastructure in the area, in addition to existing and proposed water facilities, would be adequate to provide appropriate water service to the site.

Growth Inducement

The EIR will evaluate the potential of both projects to result in growth inducement as a result of expansion or extension of infrastructure improvements, as well as new demand for housing, and goods and services. The effect of primary and secondary increases in employment and economic activity will be discussed.

Cumulative Impacts

The EIR will discuss the incremental contribution of both projects to cumulative effects of other past, current, and planned and reasonably foreseeable projects in the vicinity. As noted, the cumulative analysis will include the recently approved medical prison facility.

ALTERNATIVES TO BE EVALUATED IN THE EIR

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, the EIR will describe a reasonable range of alternatives to both of the proposed projects that are capable of meeting most of the projects' objectives, but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the projects. The EIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered but rejected by the lead agency as infeasible and briefly explain the reasons why. The EIR will also provide an analysis of the No Project Alternative.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Interested individuals, groups, and agencies may provide CDCR with written comments on topics to be addressed in the EIR for the project. Because of time limits mandated by State law, comments should be provided no later than 5 p.m. on September 16, 2010.

Agencies that will need to use the EIR when considering permits or other approvals for the proposed project should provide CDCR with the name of a staff contact person. Please send all comments to:

Roxanne Henriquez, Senior Environmental Planner
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Office of Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management
Environmental Planning Section
9838 Old Placerville Road, Suite B
Sacramento, CA 95827
Email: roxanne.henriquez@cdcr.ca.gov
Fax: (916) 255-3030
Phone: (916) 255-3010

CDCR is holding two public scoping meetings on **August 24, 2010 at 2:00 PM and at 6:00 PM** at the San Joaquin Council of Governments building located at 555 E. Weber Avenue in Stockton. The public scoping meeting is intended to receive comments on the scope and content of the environmental information CDCR will address in the EIR for the proposed project.

REFERENCES

US District Court. 2010. *Case information, Opinion and Orders for Coleman v. Schwarzenegger (2:90-CV-0520 LKK JFM)*. Available at <http://www.caed.uscourts.gov/caed/staticOther/page_1644.htm> Accessed April 21, 2010.